

Roundtable Discussion Report Out

What We Learned

Good presentations about some new integrated initiatives that the US Government is funding, including the Feed the Future (formerly the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative) and the Nutrition Initiative.

Good presentation and discussion of the institutional issues related to integrating agriculture, nutrition, and health.

Good mix of overview and technical presentations from government and academia.

Good presentation of some technical information, for example water quality/agriculture/nutrition, soil quality/agriculture/health, and food safety.

How impressive the Future Leaders are and the need to continue to strengthen that important program.

There's growing interest in links between ag, nutrition and health.

Ag is at the service of public health.

Need to highlight these linkages in schools and universities.

There's been an overemphasis on nutrient supplements; food is nutrients and a focus on healthy food is needed.

There are links between nutrition and water quality, and between nutrition and early childhood development;.

Food (growing, harvesting and preparing it) is a daily activity of rural poor – we have much to learn from them.

Agriculturalists need to provide evidence that investing in ag development will have impact.

Was glad that post harvest storage issues were discussed.

What We Did Not Discuss

The group recognized that a substantial amount of information about the linkages between agriculture, nutrition, and health was presented in three excellent panels, and that the time was limited.

The importance of the private sector in developing sustainable solutions for agriculture, health

and nutrition was not sufficiently discussed.

Not enough discussion/presentation of actual field work (in depth look at activities and projects that are being implementing).

Good discussion of technical issues, but little discussion on how to take the next steps toward action.

The implication of the discussions on undergraduate education and extension were not discussed.

We didn't hear much on gender issues, women's empowerment and land ownership by women.

We didn't hear about the source of the money for this work, and how to attract private sector investments.

We didn't hear about what happens to projects after NGOs leave.

We didn't hear about how we are exporting our food culture; obesity.

No mention of the nutritional needs of the elderly.

Didn't hear much about U.S. domestic nutritional issues that may be relevant overseas.

Is the focus on integration and nutrition a new paradigm or a fad?

Who stands to profit from any new nutrition-focused projects?

We should have more thoroughly discussed education, and the lack of it for parents and farmers.

We didn't hear much on food distribution channels – cold chain, transportation, etc.

What policies need to change in governments and banks?

Didn't hear anything on the intersection between animal health and public health issues.

We missed the connection between improved family nutrition and commercial-scale farming.

Important to remember that we don't have evidence that integration (with its 7 options) is necessarily valuable.

For the sake of sustainability, we need to reach policy makers with these important messages about nutrition.

Implications for AIARD

Revisit the Mission Statement and Vision: There several implications for AIARD (see below), but they all require that the AIARD Mission Statement and Vision be revisited. It is the Mission Statement and Vision that will provide the framework to guide these other issues. Given that AIARD is a voluntary organization, how big should/could its mission and vision be?

Revisit the mandate and composition of AIARD Committees: Addressing key multidisciplinary issues, such as the topic of the Annual Conference this year, will require a re-thinking of AIARD Committees.

Need to expand AIARD membership: The AIARD Mission is very important, especially now with increased attention (and resources) concentrating on agriculture and rural development, and the linkages between agriculture and health/nutrition and climate change. Issues such as how to increase domestic membership (should local chapters at some universities or in some cities be promoted) or international membership (how can people in other countries participate in AIARD activities, including the annual conference). We discussed, for example, that AIARD members outside the US could find a video conferencing facility (e.g., at the World Bank) that could allow them to participate at a low cost in the annual conference.

Need to improve communication of AIARD members' knowledge: AIARD members have an impressive amount of information that is relevant to individual disciplines and that is multidisciplinary. Three possible approaches were discussed. First, strengthening the AIARD website was discussed as a way to get knowledge and lessons-learned out to a broader audience. Second, linking to existing knowledge sharing websites (e.g., E-Extension) was discussed as a way to cost-effectively get our information out. Finally, have AIARD members attend other conferences as AIARD and their permanent institution, thus increasing the visibility of AIARD.

Explore if AIARD activities for members could be expanded beyond the annual conference: Given the increased attention on agriculture and rural development, we discussed the need to explore if it is feasible to have additional activities for AIARD members between the annual conferences.

Promote the development of "Tweeners" or "Boundary Steppers": "Tweeners" and "Boundary Steppers" are those individuals that feel comfortable with the language and approaches of multiple disciplines. AIARD, as a multidisciplinary organization should promote these professionals.

Promote the use of correct terminology: Several speakers at the annual conference stated that "words matter". AIARD should promote the development and use of terms that get used across practitioners of many disciplines. For example, the term "vulnerability" means something different to social scientists and physical scientists (e.g., climatologists). AIARD could develop and put a common usage set of terms on its website.

Continue the conversation between experts from agriculture, health and nutrition - either at next year's event, or at another gathering.

Highlight examples of integration.

Update the AIARD position paper; approach a foundation (McArthur) for funding.

Highlight the Masters in Development Practice program at universities; learn about the program's experience in integration.

Advocate for a competitive grants program to be administered by USAID or USA to link international agriculture, health and nutrition.

Increase outreach for diverse membership; improve AIARD website as a source of information, resources, etc.

Discussions in graduate student groups, with professors, administrators to include linkages in curriculum and to increase evidence base of linkages.

How does AIARD incorporate this topic with other issues; prioritize where this fits into overall picture.

Build AIARD membership to include government, private industry, all sectors; and, identify key issues from each sector.

Improve communication beyond AIARD to government and general public.

Revamp the website with bios and papers.

Form alliances with other organizations such as SID, Chicago International Council, Feed the Future, AIAEE, Peace Corps, USAID Ag offices. Hold meetings at with or at those organizations.

Foster research through meetings.

Give Future leaders a chance to present research and ideas, with feedback.

Use Linked In site more; use it to notify about availability of papers, etc.

Need to revisit the AIARD vision.

Need to involve students more fully in AIARD Conference program.

Young people can serve as “boundary spanners” between traditional silos of ag, health and nutrition.

Strengthen AIARD committees.

(Re)Establish AIARD priorities.

AIARD needs to outreach to international organizations (video, skype, chapters in other countries); depend on initiatives from AIARD members; and promote undergraduate integrated education.

- 1) What are the take home messages, what have we learned,
 - Jerry Comb's comments on the proportion of income devoted to food, great disparity between rich and poor nations
 - pulse discussion, stagnation or size of research dollars dedicated to it
 - the need to have a better cross pollination of the disciplines, particularly in an education setting,
 - role of education can play in nutrition, food safety, seen to have big potential, many comments on this
 - how to translate the ideas of the big initiatives to policies and practice, good to see donor commitment new approaches
 - nice to learn that the GINA project really looked at the policy issues over 3 years, then have countries develop new policies in country

 - good opportunity to hear about the 2 project case studies such as the GINA and Tag's livestock CRSP connection to nutrition

- 2) What have we not learned, what would we want to learn?

- the "how-to" FTF, USAID plan to implement, lacking detail at present
- the power dynamics to the new FTF scenarios, Nutrition and Health are the big players, AG may be a side influence
- did not hear about the issues how the partner country plan integrates with the USG plans
- how does the USG initiative (Feed the Future) fit in with the other donors and institutions (FAO, WFO), at a country level
- how do we target the programs for integration, how do we pick them out for integration, do we select by common outcomes or objectives,
- more discussion on what AG needs to recognize about their colleagues in the Health fields, in AG this will vary (food aid, AG research, etc.)
- we didn't see a vision for sustainable development, country
- how the country's own development plans will match up with the USAID mission country investment plans
- food aid discussion, what is working in this context of integrating aspects of AG, Nutrition, Health nutritional quality of donated, role of food aid, what is the best use of the food aid funds

1) What could AIARD take action on or pursue further?

-AIARD as a bridging entity between the disciplines

-make the disciplines aware of the concerns of each other “Ag can be more Health and nutrition informed” and vice versa”

-study where the complementarities between the disciplines are

-in any future discussions we need to have the discussion on “who does the project belong to”

-adjust the conference layout to have the session discussion immediately after the plenary

-rework the table layout to promote better interaction

-AIARD can help to shape the “discussion” beyond the next crisis and help to shape the sustainable long term needs

-we can help to identify how AG can contribute as well as the detrimental impacts that AG can have on development

-study how to scale up the successes (i.e. GINA)

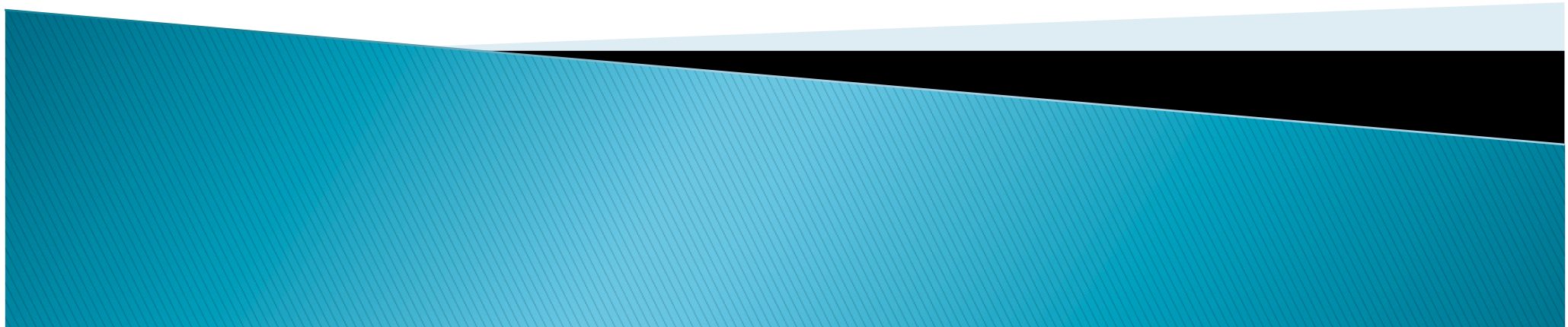
-use of webinars to provide “insider” development updates, alternatives to emails

-Enroll the future leaders in some sort of post conference role in return for the scholarship

-how present FLFs to stay connected with past participants, more structure to the FLF group (have a leader), speaking roles.

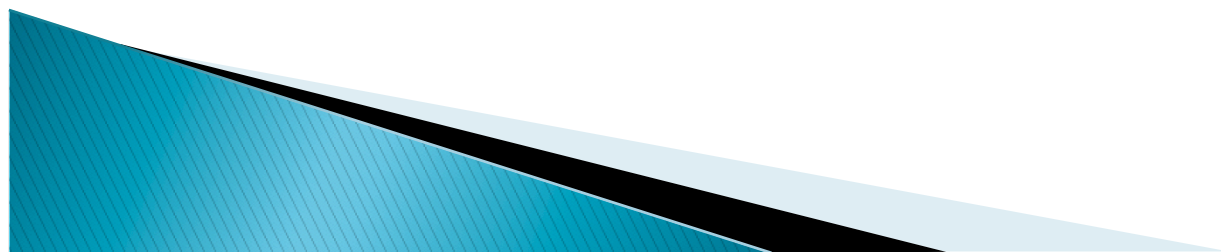
-more member input for press release

Breakout table 10



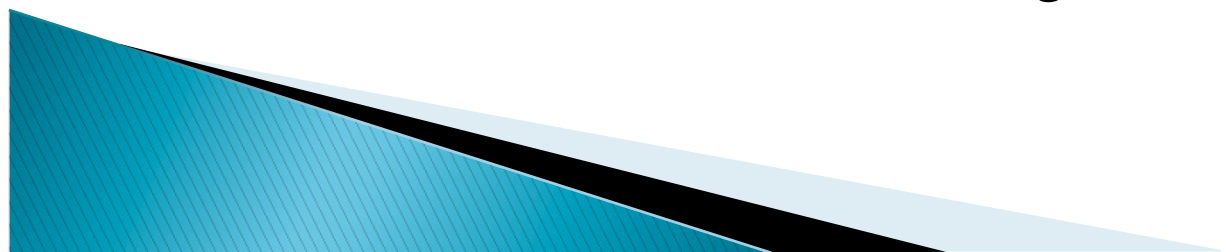
What did you personally learn?

- ▶ Same number of people are still hungry after 20 years
- ▶ There's more money coming
- ▶ Feed the future initiative – high level outcomes include production AND nutrition
- ▶ There are many paths to improving agriculture/nutrition/health
- ▶ Fumonisin/aflatoxin health and nutrition linkage
- ▶ Lack of attention to the importance of reducing postharvest crop losses




What didn't you hear?

- ▶ Agriculture's role as a service provider in health (beyond nutrition e.g HIV/AIDS) was not discussed – could be subsidized for its health benefits (diversity of diet, locally-grown vegetables, anti-mycotoxin e.g.)
- ▶ Title II programs (e.g. Food for Peace) DO have examples of Ag/Nutrition linkages, NGOs have a lot of experience and field knowledge that needs to be better documented, publicized, and exploited
- ▶ Need to develop in-field cross-disciplinary teams to address the 'stovepipe' problem, transaction costs can be reduced by longer funding cycles, concern about the new models for funding CRSPs



What didn't you hear? (cont.)

- ▶ We've heard the same thing for years, and have not managed to move on to doing what is right – move beyond improving farmer income to improving crop (and nutritional) diversity
 - ▶ Need to be thoughtful about what indicators are used to evaluate programs – we tend to be constrained by silo makers (and perhaps big Pharma)
 - ▶ We have Feed the Future - how much of that program is country-led? Will it focus on capacity building and empowerment, or on meeting indicators
 - ▶ Insufficient discussion of the vital importance of water
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What could AIARD do?

- ▶ Work to do more analysis (like the win-win paper) to inform the decisions of policymakers
- ▶ Need to have a joint conference to develop a dialog with health and nutrition professionals (NIH, WHO, etc.) on the importance of agriculture in nutrition and health
- ▶ Similarly require a dialog with environmental professionals to link agriculture and the environment
- ▶ AIARD needs to develop effective strategies to foster cross-campus, non-land grant, cross-association, and international linkages (innovative education as an example)

